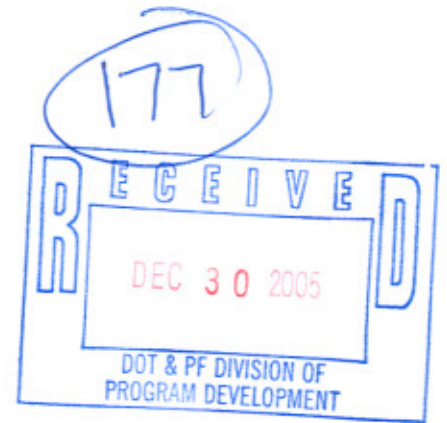


Dec 27, 2005

Mr. John Tolley, Planning Director
Alaska DOT/PF
P.O. Box 196900
Anchorage, AK. 99519-6900



Mr. Jeff Otteson, Deputy Commissioner
Alaska DOT/PF
3132 Channel Dr, Suite 200
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Subject: Need to include in STIP Seward Highway Improvements

Dear Sirs:

It has been brought to my attention that the upgrades to the Seward Highway from Girdwood to Anchorage have been removed from the STIP.

I urge you to please reconsider and put a 4lane upgrade to the highway back on the plan. (In the lower 48, they do not build 3lanes any more due to the safety issues with a suicide lane. By the time 3 lanes were complete they would be obsolete. With good planning 4lanes could be constructed for about the same costs as a 3 lane plan.)

I have lived in Girdwood for over 20 years. I have seen many accidents on that stretch of road between Anchorage and Girdwood. I have scraped people off the highway because of anxious drivers trying to pass in areas that are not safe. The drivers are so frustrated with the long lines of traffic and no place to safely pass they take their chances, not always with good results. The troopers say they are not able to get to the front of the lines and pull over the culprits. They are also understaffed and not always available to catch the offenders.

I no longer work in Anchorage and have chosen to work in Girdwood, for fear of traveling that road. I have had 3 accidents myself on that stretch of road and fear my number will be up on the Seward Highway. Just like Diane Bahnson's head on last summer at the corner in Indian.

I can understand that there are many projects and items that others feel are priorities. But building a bridge instead of upgrading the Seward, I feel is not the wisest use of funds and materials at this time. That MatSu already has a 4lane divided highway.

The traffic problem from Anchorage to Girdwood is only going to continue to get worse with all of the growth that is taking place and being planned to take place.

State Sen. Con Bunde
Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich
Anchorage Assembly Janice Shamberg
Anchorage Assembly Chris Birch
GBOS
Girdwood 2020